

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN JO 01510 131955Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCT-01 SY-05 AID-05 DHA-02 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02
/041 W

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R 122135Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6998
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, CS, NU

SUBJECT: SANDINISTA GUERRILLA LEADER BURIED IN COSTA RICA

REF: A. SAN JOSE 1480; B. MANAGUA 1642

1. SUMMARY: LOCALLY PERFORMED AUTOPSY SHOWS THAT CARLOS AGUERO WAS NOT TORTURED, AS FAMILY CHARGED, BUT DIED OF BULLET WOUNDS. THREE BOMBING INCIDENTS APRIL 11 IN SAN JOSE ARE WIDELY LINKED TO LOCAL SANDINISTAS AVENGING AGUERO'S DEATH. END SUMMARY.

2. CARLOS AGUERO ECHEVARRIA, 28-YEAR OLBYRANDINISTA LEADER WHO WAS BORN IN COSTA RICA, WAS BURIED APRIL 12 IN SAN JOSE. AUGERO, OF AN ANTI-SOMOZA NICARAGUAN FAMILY THAT LIVES IN COSTA RICA, WAS REPORTEDLY KILLED IN A FIREFIGHT WITH THE NATIONAL GUARD APRIL 7 IN THE MOUNTAINS OF NORTHERN NICARAGUA.

3. ON COURT ORDER, AN AUTOPSY WAS PERFORMED ON THE BODY APRIL 12 TO DETERMINE IF, AS THE FAMILY CHARGED, YOUNG AGUERO HAD
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BEEN TORTURED. SUCH RESULTS, AS REPORTED IN SAN JOSE MEDIA, WERE NEGATIVE; THE AUTOPSY SHOWED THAT AGUERO DIED OF BULLET WOUNDS IN THE HEAD AND BODY.

4. AGUERO'S BODY WAS BROUGHT TO COSTA RICA BY HIS UNCLE, NICARAGUAN CONSERVATIVE PARTY LEADER DR. FERNANDO AGUERO ROCHA, APRIL 10. DR. AGUERO HAD HARSH WORDS FOR SOMOZA GOVERNMENT,

CALLED HIS NEPHEW A FALLEN MARTYR, AND PREDICTED THAT OTHER YOUNG LEADERS WOULD RISE TO FILL HIS PLACE.

5. THREE BOMBING INCIDENTS APRIL 11 INVOLVING DEVICES OF RELATIVELY LOW INTENSITY IN SAN JOSE HAVE BEEN ATTRIBUTED TO THE DEATH OF AGUERO: THE US ODC (REFTEL, THE DOWNTOWN OFFICE OF A COMPANY OWNED BY FERNANDO BATALLA, EX-MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE OF PRESIDENT FIGUERES, AND A PASSAGEWAY IN THE JUAN SANTAMARIA AIRPORT, NEAR THE OFFICES OF PAN AMERICAN. POLICE HAVE TURNED UP NO LEADS AS YET. THE MEDIA AND THE MAN ON THE STREET, HOWEVER, BLAME THESE BOMBS ON SANDINISTAS WHO LIVE IN COSTA RICA. SO FAR, LOCAL SANDINISTAS HAVE NEITHER CLAIMED CREDIT FOR BOMBINGS, NOR DENIED IT.

6. COMMENT: EMBASSY TENDS TO BELIEVE THAT LOCAL SANDINISTAS, OR HOTHEAD ELEMENTS THEREOF, ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR BOMBINGS. ACCORDING TO LOCAL SOURCES, SANDINISTAS ARE FRUSTRATED OVER LOSS OF SO MANY OF THEIR LEADERS AND ARE NOW LASHING OUT IN ANGER AND DESPERATION. IF THIS IS THE CASE, THE ODUBER GOVERNMENT WILL FACE UNPLEASANT OPTIONS; TO SIT ON LOCAL SANDINISTAS WOULD COURT THE IRE OF THE LEFT; NOT TO REACT WILL BE CONSIDERED A SIGN OF WEAKNESS. KILDAY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
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Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: SAN JOSE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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